

### **REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided to the present application. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-28 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 20-28 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 1, 7 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-19 have been previously allowed by the Examiner. Claims 20-28 have been added for the Examiner's consideration and are directed at the embodiment(s) described at pages 14-22 of the present application.

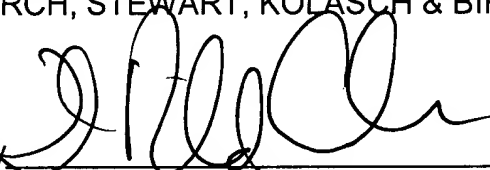
### **CONCLUSION**

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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